

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS
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CONGRESS/
HATFIELD

TOM BROKAW: Good evening. Senator Mark Hatfield, of Oregon, says he has done nothing wrong, but others aren't so sure, and tonight Hatfield faces an FBI investigation and a review by the Senate Ethics Committee. It involves a \$40,000 payment from a Greek businessman to Hatfield's wife, a businessman who received help from the senator. James Polk tonight on the investigations and the allegations.

POLK: The FBI has taken the first steps to begin an investigation of Hatfield and was joined today by the Senate Ethics Committee. At issue, the money paid to Hatfield's wife by a Greek financier he was helping in a business deal. Greek promoter Basil Tsakos approached Hatfield after opening a Washington office for the Trans-African Pipeline Company. Tsakos wants to build an oil pipeline as a land route across Africa from Sudan to Cameroon on the Atlantic Coast. Hatfield talked to Defense Secretary Weinberger about the pipeline, set up a meeting for Tsakos with Energy Secretary Hodel, and also approached Sudan's President Nimeiri. At the same time, Tsakos was paying \$40,000 to Hatfield's wife, Antoinette, who is a real estate broker. At first Hatfield said she helped Tsakos find a Watergate Apartment in Washington, then said she advised him on other properties. But the man who sold Tsakos' apartment said there was no real estate agent involved. And a businessman who worked with Sokels added, 'I was unaware of any work that Mrs. Hatfield had done for Tsakos.' Late yesterday, Hatfield denied any connection between the payments and his pipeline support. MARK\HATFIELD (R-Ore.): My wife conducts an independent real estate business. There was not, is not, and never will be any connection between her real estate dealings and my senatorial responsibilities.

POLK: But Hatfield would not answer questions, and neither would a lawyer who issued this statement for Tsakos today. WILLIAM\CASSELMAN\II: We have engaged only in moral and lawful actions and have nothing to hide concerning either the project or any connection of the Senator or Mrs. Hatfield.

POLK: Hatfield, on Capitol Hill this evening, would say nothing about the FBI decision to investigate. The investigation is likely to last through the fall, at a time when Hatfield already is facing a tough fight for reelection. James Polk, NBC News, Washington.